

1 HONORABLE RICHARD A. JONES
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

9 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
10 Plaintiff,

11 v.
12 GIZACHEW WONDIE,
13 Defendant.

Case No. CR18-315 RAJ

ORDER

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15 In a previous Order, this Court granted in part and denied in part Defendant
16 Gizachew Wondie's motion to unseal. Dkt. # 334. It instructed the parties to submit
17 their joint proposed redactions to the Court's previous orders.¹ *Id.* at 4.

18 The parties have since filed their proposed redactions,² not without disagreement.

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20 ¹ The Court also denied the government's motion to seal its response to Mr. Wondie's
21 motion to seal. Dkt. # 334. The Court said that the government could file a redacted
22 version of its response "consistent" with the Court's order. *Id.* The government says that
23 its currently-sealed response, located at Docket No. 327, may be unsealed. Dkt. # 338.
24 Yet it maintains that the attachments to the response, not the response itself, contains
25 confidential information. *Id.* The Court will allow those attachments to remain under
26 seal. Dkt. ## 327-1 to 327-4.

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28 ² Mr. Wondie has filed those proposed redacted versions under seal. To that end, he has
filed a motion to seal those proposed redacted versions. Dkt. # 335. Given that the
unsealing of those versions would entirely defeat the purpose of this sealing process, the
Court finds good cause for those proposed redacted versions to remain under seal. Dkt.
337. Thus, the Court **GRANTS** Mr. Wondie's motion. Dkt. # 335.

ORDER – 1

1 Dkt. ## 336, 337. Though the parties agree that only a single redaction need be applied
2 to the Court's order located at Docket No. 321, they disagree about the redactions to be
3 applied to the Court's other order, located at Docket No. 314. To that end, they have
4 submitted different proposed redacted versions of the order located at Docket No. 314.

5 Dkt. ## 337-1, 337-2.

6 The Court adopts the government's version. Dkt. # 337-2. The Court previously
7 allowed "the name *and other identifying characteristics* of the murder victim" to remain
8 under seal. Dkt. # 334 at 4 (emphasis added). The government believes that "the date of
9 the homicide and the caliber and number of rounds of the ammunition at issue" are
10 "identifying characteristics." Dkt. # 336 at 2. The Court agrees. As the government puts
11 it, these details "effectively identify the particular homicide," potentially harming an
12 ongoing murder investigation while providing no meaningful benefit to the public. *Id.*

13 The parties are instructed to send a PDF version of the two redacted orders (Dkt.
14 ## 337, 337-2) to the Court's courtroom deputy so that the Court may file those versions
15 publicly. Further, the Court directs the Clerk to unseal Docket No. 327. Docket Nos.
16 327-1 to 327-4, however, shall remain under seal.

17 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

18 DATED this 16th day of December, 2021.

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22 The Honorable Richard A. Jones
23 United States District Judge
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